



HELLENIC REPUBLIC

MINISTRY OF INTERIOR

GENERAL SECRETARIAT OF GENDER EQUALITY

DEPARTMENT OF EUROPEAN AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

Undue interferences with the right to privacy in the digital age that may have particular effects for women, as well as children and persons in vulnerable situations or marginalized groups and approaches to protect those individuals.

1. A [2014 survey](#) conducted by the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights found that one in 10 women in the EU has experienced cyber-harassment since the age of 15. According to a report prepared by the European Institute for Gender Equality titled '[Cyber violence against women and girls](#)' (June 2017), there are various forms of online violence against women including – but not confined to – non-consensual pornography (sometimes referred to as 'revenge porn'), 'slut-shaming', unsolicited pornography, 'sextortion', rape and death threats and cyber stalking. According to the same report, research suggests that up to 90 % of 'revenge porn' victims are female and that that number is increasing.

Following these studies, concerns have emerged about technology-facilitated gender-based violence. There are types of sexual and gender-based crimes that occur in cyberspace or are facilitated through technology, such as cyber-stalk, rape videos, sexist/hate speech etc. Technology has also been used to create spaces where women feel marginalized and threatened based on their gender, and there are numerous instances of extreme misogyny in cyberspace.

In relation to the above mentioned issue, the General Secretariat for Gender Equality has considered that cyber-violence is an issue of arising importance in the digital age. To deal with this, by decision of the Secretary General in March 2018, a working group with eleven members (civil servants, employees and individuals) has been set up and operates within the General Secretariat for Gender Equality. Its task is drafting legislative and other interventions to prevent, tackle and eliminate forms of gender-based violence through the Internet. The overarching goal is to ensure that public space is safe and an area of empowerment for women and girls, and not a place of harassment and intimidation.

2. Since 29.3.2018 the bill ratifying the Istanbul Convention (Council of Europe Convention

on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence) is in force (under procedure of publishing in the Official Gazette).

The Convention emphasizes on prevention of gender-based violence through specialized education and awareness programs and specialized measures are envisaged:

- to protect women-victims of violence in order to prevent their secondary victimization,
- to protect children witnesses of abuse,
- to facilitate access for victims of gender violence to legal compensation and
- to establish a mechanism for the monitoring of its implementation.

More specifically, regarding the 6th question of the "High Commissioner for Human Rights on the Right to Privacy in the Digital Age" concerning women, we would like to inform you on the following:

The second article of the law ratifying the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence includes amendments of the Greek Penal Code:

Article 2, par.4 of the Law and in accordance with Article 34 of the Convention, the so-called stalking is criminalized, that is, a persistent behavior of persecution or monitoring, in which the intervention in the private sphere of the victim is particularly burdensome. Therefore, a second subparagraph is added to paragraph 1 of Article 333 of the Greek Criminal Code. The new offense which is standardized, in opposition to the offense of threat, is not committed by threat of violence or illegal act or omission, but by the persistent pursuit or follow-up of the victim, which is carried out either by seeking constant contact by telecommunication or electronic means (e.g by e-mails, by phone calls, etc.), or by constantly visiting the victim's environment, despite his expressed opposite intention, causing the victim tremors or anxiety.